

REMARKS

By this amendment, current claims 13 – 48, 50 and 111 – 117 have been withdrawn. Claims 51 to 110 were previously cancelled, by way of the Preliminary Amendment filed on October 3, 2005. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1 – 50 and 111 – 117 remain pending in the application. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

In Regard to the Restriction

The Examiner requested restriction to one of the following groups of claims:

- | | |
|------------|-----------------------|
| Group I | Claims 1-12 and 49 |
| Group II | Claims 13-20 and 50 |
| Group III | Claims 21-24 |
| Group IV | Claim 25 |
| Group V | Claims 26 and 112-117 |
| Group VI | Claims 27-33 |
| Group VII | Claims 34-42 |
| Group VIII | Claim 43 |
| Group IX | Claims 44-48 |

The Applicants hereby elect Group I directed to claims 1-12 and 49.

Accordingly, the Applicants have withdrawn claims 13 – 48, 50 and 111 – 117.

The Examiner considers the structural moiety, element, or step common to Groups I to IX to be a copolymer comprising one or more N-alkyl or N,N-dialkyl substituted acrylamide co-monomers, one or more hydrophilic co-monomers, and one or more acryl- or methacryl carboxylic acid co-monomers. The Examiner suggests that this copolymer was

previously disclosed in US 46114701 and, therefore, cannot be the special technical feature that makes a contribution over the art and unifies the claims. Applicants respectfully disagree and assert that US 4614701 does not disclose a copolymer having pendant cross-linkable moieties that are reactive with primary amines, as required by the pending claims. Accordingly, Applicants request that the Examiner considers claims 13 – 48, 50 and 111 – 117 for rejoinder upon allowance of the claims of Group I.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, the Applicants respectfully submit that all of the currently pending claims are allowable and that the entire application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable to place the application in a better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

At the time of filing of the present response, the Office was authorized to charge the fees believed to be necessary to a credit card. In case of any under- or over-payment or should any additional fee be otherwise necessary, the Office is hereby authorized to credit or debit (as the case may be) Deposit Account number 502977.

Respectfully submitted,

/Dominic Goudreault, 53915/

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